Global Tuna Alliance
A market led initiative to deliver sustainable tuna
Introduction
The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)

- An independent group of retailers and supply-chain companies, working to ensure that tuna ultimately meets the highest standards of environmental performance and social responsibility.
- The GTA was established in response to RFMOs not managing tuna fisheries properly; impacting supply chain commitments.
- Fully-funded by the World Economic Forum to implement the Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration commitments:
  - Tuna Traceability
  - Social Responsibility
  - Environmental Sustainability
  - Government Partnerships
The **Government Partnership commitment** calls on industry leaders to work with governments to take actions needed to:

a) Implement Harvest Strategies for all tuna stocks under the jurisdiction of each tuna RFMO by 2020, that will ensure sustainably managed tuna fisheries in line with SDG Target 14.4.

b) Establish systems to identify and restrict illegal seafood through government-led measures on traceability and transparency.

c) Build capacity to establish and manage information systems to account for domestic and international fishing fleets, landings, enforcement and trade of seafood products, in line with the FAO Code of Conduct and the Port State Measure Agreement.
Why are RFMOs so Important?

• IOTC - Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
• WCPFC - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
• IATTC - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
• ICCAT - International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
• CCSBT - Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
Importance of Market Engagement of RFMOs
• The GTA is an observer of the **Global NGO Tuna Forum**
• Forum members agree on priority asks for tuna fisheries
• The Forum offers a collaborative approach to RFMO engagement to:
  • Avoid duplication of asks
  • Avoid confusion
  • Maximise amplification of the priority asks
Joined Up Approach to RFMO Advocacy

Joint RFMO Positions in 2020
Our RFMO Asks
### Core 2020 RFMO Engagement Priorities

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Harvest Strategies

Over-Arching Drivers

Fishery

Harvest Strategy

- Objectives
- Performance Indicators
- Limit, trigger and target reference points
- Monitoring
- Stock Assessment
- Decision Rules

Compliance and enforcement
Co-management arrangements
Management system (e.g. input/output control)
Management plan
Allocation
International obligations
Environmental legislation
Fisheries legislation
Co-management policy
Ecosystem-based fisheries management
## Stock Sustainability Relative to MSC Criteria

### Component P1 - Relating to the status of the stock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>WPO Yellowfin</th>
<th>WPO Bigeye</th>
<th>WPO Skipjack</th>
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<th>EPO Bigeye</th>
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<tr>
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### Management

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<th>Component</th>
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Source: ISSF, 2019
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<td>HCR in place</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Managed by the HCR on YFT and BET</td>
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<td>Yellowfin</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>HCR in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bigeye</td>
<td>2021</td>
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<td>Southern Bluefin</td>
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  Skipjack HCRs | 100% observer coverage on longline and transshipment vessels | Reforming the regulations of at-sea transshipment | Develop a comprehensive FAD management program |
| *Hiring fisheries scientist(s) to develop management proposals |                          |                              |  

**IOTC**

- Rebuilding plan for yellowfin*
- Skipjack HCRs
  
  *Hiring fisheries scientist(s) to develop management proposals

**IATTC**

- Tropical Tuna Conservation Management Measure

**ICCAT**

- Mako Shark Conservation (TBC)

**WCPFC**

- Skipjack Harvest Strategies (MSC Alignment Issue)
100% Observer Coverage

FULLY OBSERVED VS. UNOBSERVED TUNA FISHERIES

- More Accurate Data for better fisheries management
- Improved Vessel Compliance
- Better Monitoring of ecological impacts
- Greater Transparency on water and on boat
- Cost Efficiencies in data collection and reporting

- Inaccurate Data
- Illegally Caught Fish
- Misreported Catch
- Underreported Catch
- Fishing Beyond Authorized Zone
- Bycatch of endangered, threatened & protected (CITES) species
- Shark Finning
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**Accelerate action on the development of harvest strategies**<br>100% observer coverage on longline and transshipment vessels<br>Reforming the regulations of at-sea transshipment<br>Develop a comprehensive FAD management program
Reforming at-sea Transshipment Regs
Reforming at-sea Transshipment Regs

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<tr>
<th>Notification</th>
<th>Declaration</th>
<th>Flagging</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Vessel Lists</th>
<th>IMO Numbers</th>
<th>Observer Coverage</th>
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<td>Increasing the advance notification requirement to at least 48 hours</td>
<td>Requiring the submission of transshipment declarations by the fishing vessel to the RFMO Secretariat and flag State in near real-time</td>
<td>Requiring that carrier vessels be flagged to an RFMO member CPC in order to be authorized to tranship tuna and tuna-like species</td>
<td>Developing electronic reporting standards for carrier and longline fishing vessels</td>
<td>list of all vessels authorized to engage in at-sea transshipment activities</td>
<td>Require that vessels must have an IMO number in order to be authorized to transship</td>
<td>Require 100 percent observer coverage (human, electronic or both on the fishing vessel and the carrier vessel for all at-sea transhipping events</td>
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- Rebuilding plan for yellowfin*  
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Better FAD Management
# Better FAD Management

## Reduce Bycatch
- **Biodegradable**
  - Set a timeframe to transition to FADs without nets and with biodegradable materials.
- **Non-entangling**
  - Require fleets to remove previously deployed highly entangling FADs from the water.

## Improve Management
- **Recovery & Retrieval**
  - Design FAD-recovery mechanisms and incentives, such as increasing purse seiners’ FAD retrieval and storing capacity, and removing a percentage of FADs from the water relative to the number deployed.
- **Limits**
  - Adopt science-based limits on FAD deployments and/or FAD sets.

## Reduce Debris
- **Tender Vessels**
  - Adopt supply-and-tender vessel measures, including identifying vessels supported, data collection on FADs deployed and serviced, identifying on the Record of Fishing Vessels, and applying observer requirements.
- **Marking**
  - Develop a FAD marking scheme based on the FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear for all new FAD deployments, regardless of vessel type.
- **Position Data**
  - Require complete FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys.
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- Accelerate action on the development of harvest strategies
- 100% observer coverage on longline and transshipment vessels
- Reforming the regulations of at-sea transshipment
- Develop a comprehensive FAD management program
Rebuilding plan for Indian Ocean yellowfin

- Rebuilding plan* for yellowfin that will rebuild stock in two generations.

* GTA producing independent management advice to support
Yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean is overfished and subject to overfishing.
What happened at IOTC in 2019?

- 10% catch reduction
- 25% catch reduction
Skipjack Harvest Control Rules

- There is a HCR for skipjack in the Indian Ocean
- Defined an annual catch limit of 470,029 tonnes for the years 2018 to 2020
- However, total catches in 2018 (607,701 t) were 29% larger than the IOTC catch limit, and there has been an increasing trend in catches over the past 3 years.
- According to FAO definitions this could be classified as IUU fishing; in the sense that its unregulated
- Putting 2 MSC certifications in this region at risk as well as commercial sourcing policies
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- **Accelerate action on the development of harvest strategies**
- **100% observer coverage on longline and transshipment vessels**
- **Reforming the regulations of at-sea transshipment**
- **Develop a comprehensive FAD management program**
RESOLUTION C-17-02

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2018-2020 AND AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-17-01

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting;

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPMs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Concerned that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the IATTC staff's recommendations, and the precautionary approach; and

Recalling the need to take into account the special circumstances and requirements of the developing countries of the region, particularly the coastal countries, as recognized in the Antigua Convention, in particular in its Preamble and in its Article XXII, paragraph 1;

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for tropical tunas set out below, and to request that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPMs' flag vessels relative to this commitment, and also report on such activities at each annual meeting of the Commission;

1. These measures are applicable during 2018-2020 to all CPMs' purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (more than 182 metric tons carrying capacity), and to all their longline vessels ever 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.

2. Pole-and-line, troll, and spotting vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (182 metric tons carrying capacity or less) and longline vessels less than 24 meters length overall, are not subject to these measures, except those related to the management of FADs.

MEASURES FOR PURSE-SEINE FLEETS

3. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 72 days in each year covered by this resolution. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods, as follows: from 00:00 hours on 29 July to 24:00 hours on 8 October, or from 00:00 hours on 9 November to 24:00 hours on 19 January of the following year.

4. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 108°W and between 0°N and 3°S, known as the "corridor", which is illustrated in Figure 1, shall be closed from 00:00 hours on 5 October to 24:00 hours on 2 November of each year.
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MAKE TIME FOR MAKOS!

Bycatch of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in ICCAT fisheries has been overlooked for far too long.

RAISE THE PRIORITY

Since the 2008 Ecological Risk Assessment, estimators have asserted that shortfin mako sharks are exceptionally vulnerable to ICCAT fisheries. While ICCAT has since granted many other shark species protected status, mako’s have been permitted. The Standing Committee for Scientific and Research (SCRS) recommendations to cap an absolute fishing mortality have been met with inadequate response; time and time again.

Shortfin mako shark species overview:
- Age of maturity: 1-18 years
- Length at 50% maturity: 127cm
- Gestation: 15-18 months
- Reproduction: 0-5 pups every 3-4 years
- Life span: ~32 years
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

Figure 1: Kobe phase plot for North Atlantic shortfin mako showing current status (2018) based on all assessment models used. Concentration of the plot as red area indicates that combined probability from all the models of fishing in an overfished state while still experiencing overfishing was 98%. Ref: SCRS 2017 DHF Figure 9.
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### Tuna Stocks with HCRs and Stocks Where MSC Certified Fisheries Have Committed to Delivering HCRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<th>Atlantic Ocean (ICCAT) (^2)</th>
<th>Western-Central Pacific (WCPFC) (^3)</th>
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<td>Skipjack</td>
<td>HCR in place</td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<td>Yellowfin</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2021</td>
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<td>Bigeye</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>HCR in place</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>HCR in place</td>
<td>2021 (South Pacific stock)</td>
<td>2023 (North Pacific stock)</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Bluefin</td>
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How to Engage with RFMOs
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Collaborative

• Join representative organisations (for example the Global Tuna Alliance)
• Participate in collaborative outreach and engagement

Independent

• Develop an internal RFMO policy
• Write to the delegations of relevance
• Present asks ‘in-person’
• Ask your suppliers to engage RFMOs
• Attend RFMO Meetings
Resources

Overview for Market Actors

Template text for letters, talking points

Delegate Details
Take Home Messages

• RFMOs have an essential role in tuna fisheries management
• They rarely hear the voice of the supply chain (excluding catching sector who are often well represented)
• The Government Partnership commitment includes industry leaders calling on governments to take actions needed to:
  a) Implement Harvest Strategies for all tuna stocks under the jurisdiction of each tuna RFMO by 2020, that will ensure sustainably managed tuna fisheries in line with SDG Target 14.4.
  b) Establish systems to identify and restrict illegal seafood through government-led measures on traceability and transparency
• To achieve (a & b), the GTA is encouraging companies to:
  – Partner with the GTA
  – Participate in GTA-led RFMO engagement
  – Directly engage with RFMO delegates using provided RFMO engagement resources